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PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 543-1400

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General Counsel

9-21-64

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

During the course of the work pursued by the President's Commission your Bureau has provided invaluable assistance investigating, among other things, the possibility that Lee Harvey Oswald had some affiliation with various subversive underground activities. In concluding its work, the Commission is now concerned, however, that its records contain an indication of the scope of the investigation which your Bureau has conducted into these particular matters and a clear statement of the results of that investigation.

In particular, we would appreciate receiving from you a letter indicating whether or not as a result of an examination of your complete nation-wide files and all investigation which you have conducted you have obtained any evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was at any time a member of or otherwise affiliated with the Communist Party, U.S.A., the Socialist Workers Party, or any other extreme leftist organization. To the extent to which you are able to do so, we would appreciate your including in the letter a statement indicating the range of informants which you have contacted in this regard, and the scope of other investigation which you have conducted.

In your letter of May 26, 1964, you informed the Commission that your Bureau had "thoroughly explored" the question of possible contacts between Lee Harvey Oswald and any representative of or known sympathizer with the Castro Government of Cuba and that "no information has been developed indicating Oswald was controlled, directed or employed by any individual so identified." Would you please inform the Commission whether or not this statement remains true as of this date and, to the extent feasible and in the same manner as above, the scope of the investigation which has been conducted upon which this statement is based.

SRP:mfd:21Sep64

cc: Mr. Rankin
Mr. Willens
Mr. Pollak

Mail Room Files

X

We would further appreciate similar information in regard to the possibility that Lee Harvey Oswald at any time had contacts with persons or organizations active in underground activities directed against the Government of Premier Fidel Castro.

In making these requests, we are of course fully aware of the extensive investigation which has been conducted by your Bureau into all aspects of the assassination and we do not wish you to prepare a summary covering the many hundreds of investigative reports which you have thus far provided the Commission. However, what we do wish to obtain is a statement that the nation-wide files of your Bureau have been thoroughly examined with regard to the three matters mentioned above, if this is the case, and an indication of the extent to which informants and other such persons likely to be in possession of any pertinent information have been contacted by your Bureau in the course of developing possible leads to the above persons and organizations with whom Oswald might have had some connection.

This letter will confirm conversation between Mr. Pollak of the Commission staff and Mr. Malley. Since the Commission is about to submit its final report, we would appreciate receiving a response to this request as soon as possible.

The Commission once again wishes to thank your Bureau for its continuing cooperation.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel